

Professor Onkar Singh Bindra

Prof. Bindra hails from Village Nainwan, Tahsil Garhshanker, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India. He held scholarships throughout B.Sc. (Honors) Agriculture, Delhi University, 1951, Associateship, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, 1953, and Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1961.

Prof. Bindra built a strong Dept. of Entomology at the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. His career included Visiting Professorship in Nigeria and research on Crop Pest Mgmt. in projects of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Sudan, Liberia and Indonesia. He is on the Board of the Renaissance Society, a 920-member CSUS-based society for life-long learning, where he is the "sought-after Sikh" for his seminars.

Prof. Bindra has ensured financial support for the Punjabi Foreign Language program at CSUS. Along with Dr. Jasbir Kang, Prof. Bindra helped with the production of "Meet the Sikhs", a short PBS/KVIE video. Further, he obtained approval from the California Department of Education for its use in public schools as resource material, and KVIE's authorization for its use free-of-charge.

Dr. Bindra has provided leadership to the campaign for



inclusion of Sikh information in courses on religion and in school textbooks

Based on his advice he received approval of the Yuba City School District for adding Sikh History to the course contents of "Survey of World Religions". Prof. Bindra's pleas to the California Department of Education and publishers has led to inclusion of Sikh information in the new school textbooks.

He has spent much time and energy to get more attention to the Sikh faith at CSUS, and has made substantial progress.

1. HRS 71, which includes Sikhism, besides other Indian religions, will be a required course soon.
2. Two new courses (HRS 170 and 178B) include Sikhism and other Indian religions.
3. In HRS 140: Exploring World Religions, a course that does not include Sikhism, more students are getting exposed to the Sikh faith..

A Marrow Registration Drive

... will be held at the festival this year in honor of **Karandeep Singh** who died from Leukemia in 2006, despite a very brave battle. Registering to be a Marrow donor is even easier and simply involves filling out a consent form, and giving a cheek cell swab. Karandeep did not find his own matching donor but his family hopes that efforts to register more South Asian bone marrow donors will help save someone else's life.

For more informatioino visit www.aadp.org or email asia@aadp.org or call 800-59-DONOR



In Honor of Bhagat Singh Thind (1892-1967)

Bhagat Singh Thind (1892-1967) was born in Punjab and came to America in 1913. A year later, he was paying his way through the University of California at Berkeley by working in an Oregon lumber mill during summer vacations. When America entered World War I, he joined the U.S. Army. He was honorably discharged on 16th of December, 1918 and in 1920 applied for U.S. citizenship from the state of Oregon. Since several applicants from India had thus far been granted U.S. citizenship, he too was approved by the district court. However a naturalization examiner appealed this court's decision, and the rest is history.

Feb 10, 1923: Justice Sutherland rules "Hindus" are "aliens ineligible to citizenship" in United States vs. Bhagat Singh Thind (261 US 204)

What is less well-known is that Bhagat Singh Thind remained in

the U.S., completed his Ph.D., and delivered lectures in metaphysics all across the nation. Basing his lessons on Sikh philosophy, he enriched his teaching with references to the scriptures of several religions and the work of Emerson, Whitman, and Thoreau. He campaigned actively for the independence of India from the British Empire, and helped Indian students in any way he could. In 1931, he married Vivian Davies and they had a son, David, to whom several of his 15 books are dedicated.

"You must never be limited by external authority, whether it be vested in a church, man, or book. It is your right to question, challenge, and investigate."

Ironically, Dr. Thind applied for and received U.S. citizenship through the state of New York within a few years of being turned down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

David Thind (right), son of Bhagat Singh Thind will be an honored guest at the Punjabi American Festival on May 28.



Bhagat Singh Thind was one of the first Sikhs to serve in the U.S. Army in WWI



David Thind, son of Bhagat Singh Thind.

Joseph Langdell, Pearl Harbor Veteran



Joseph Langdell is an accomplished man. He is a retired Yuba City resident — and an honored Veteran.

Graduating from Boston University in 1938 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Mr. Langdell joined

the Boston firm of Elliott Davis and Company, Certified Accountants as a Junior Accountant. But that didn't last long. With the clouds of war looming ahead, he joined the V-7 Naval Reserve program. After a 30-day cruise aboard the USS New York, as an apprentice seaman he was appointed a Midshipmen at the US Naval Reserve's Midshipmen's School, Northwestern University, Chicago.

On December 7, 1941, Joe was awakened by the sounds of the Japanese surprise attack. Rushing outside, he witnessed the ARIZONA sink in just nine minutes. 1,177 sailors and Marines lost their lives aboard the ship; 335 survived. Ensign Landell and others helped the survivors to a hospital. 10

days later Ensign Langdell led a team of 15 men assigned the gruesome task of recovering bodies from the ship's decks.

Mr. Langdell currently resides in Yuba City with his wife. He has been an active charter member of the USS Arizona Reunion Association since 1997. At some time he has held every elective office except Board of Directors. The group meets yearly. He maintains a Life membership in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. Mr. Langdell is one of three principal figures in the television documentary, "USS Arizona: Life and Death of a Lady" which aired on the A&E cable network in 1991 and 1992.